



# Look at London

**Bilderverzeichnis**  
**Liste de photographies**





**Look  
at  
London  
in  
Colour**



J A R R O L D



LONDON, capital of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the largest city in the British Commonwealth, has an indefinable character and charm of her own, which the photographs in this book seek to recapture. In this historic city the modern rubs shoulders with the old, the present is ever conscious of the past, the great and the small live side by side in mutual tolerance and respect, and in every part of London's busy and complex life there is to be found a very genuine affection for her traditions, her fortunes and her prosperity.

The people of London—exemplified by the cheerful Cockney—love their city. Visitors from every quarter of the world come to make her acquaintance, and few depart unaffected by her gracious personality. London can be both grave and gay as befits the occasion. One has only to remember the ordeal of the Londoners during the Battle of Britain and their heartfelt rejoicing at the time of the Coronation to realize with what affection London is loved by her own people.

London is far from being a drab city, as we have endeavoured to show in the pages which follow. Everywhere there is colour to be found—be it the sombre hues of the great churches and monuments, the fresh blues and greens of the open spaces or the brilliant colours of some splendid military occasion.

The first mayor of London was elected in 1193 but for more than a thousand years before that London had been a place of some importance. The Romans, the Saxons and the Danes settled here in turn, and after them came the Normans who brought to the country a measure of stability. During the Tudor period considerable building took place, and, it is to be regretted, demolition under Henry VIII of many fine churches. With the passing years London continued to grow in importance and its position as the seat of the government was firmly secured.

London survived the Plague which killed nearly 100,000 people and the Great Fire which followed. Little damage occurred during World War I, but World War II brought tremendous destruction. Many buildings of great historic value were laid in ruins and today the face of London is changed. Yet much was spared, including the Tower, St. Paul's and Westminster Abbey, and what is far more important, the spirit of the people was unimpaired.

It is quite impossible in a few days or even in weeks to take stock of all that London has to offer. There is always something new to be discovered, some fresh approach to a familiar scene, some curious piece of history to be investigated. Likewise it is not possible within the compass of this book to do more than present a cross-section of London and Londoners, to present what it is hoped is an acceptable souvenir of the "flower of Britain" and to whet the appetite for further exploration.









THE CITY OF LONDON, as distinct from the Metropolitan District, is only a square mile in area, but within its boundaries are to be found some of the most famous landmarks in the capital. ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL (1) stands on the site of former Saxon and Norman churches. The latter was destroyed in the Great Fire and the present building, completed in 1710, is the work of the eminent architect Sir Christopher Wren. Londoners have a particular affection for St. Paul's which is the largest Protestant church in England. The 365-ft. high dome, containing the remarkable Whispering Gallery, is a prominent landmark towering above the many-storied buildings which line the river bank (2). In the crypt are buried Nelson and Wellington.

On the southern bank of the Thames, opposite the City, stands SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL (3), dedicated to St. Saviour. Parts of this church date from the thirteenth century. In the borough of Southwark too was situated the Globe Theatre where many of Shakespeare's plays were first performed. The theatre was unfortunately burned down in 1613.

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3







London's river, the Thames, never fails to provide a varied and interesting picture for the sightseer. **TOWER BRIDGE** (4 and 5), the most easterly across the river was built in 1894. Its upper span is over 150 ft. high. The lower bascules can be raised to permit the passage of tall vessels. The pleasantly proportioned towers are of steel faced with granite and Portland stone. Below the bridge great docks and wharves extend eastwards and ships from every corner of the world bring their cargoes to this great port.

For nearly a thousand years history has been made in the **TOWER OF LONDON** (6). For many years the Tower was a royal residence and also a State prison where many famous and infamous men and women were imprisoned. The security of the Tower is mainly the responsibility of the Yeoman Warders, or "Beefeaters" as they are popularly called, who still wear their picturesque Tudor uniform (7). The Crown Jewels and Royal Regalia are kept in the Wakefield Tower.

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5	7







The LORD MAYOR'S SHOW, which celebrates the election of the new Lord Mayor of London, takes place annually in November. It is one of London's most colourful pageants, and each year the procession has a different 'theme'. The Lord Mayor rides in a gilded coach, drawn by a team of splendid horses.

The BANK OF ENGLAND and the ROYAL EXCHANGE (9) occupy prominent sites in the heart of the City. The Bank (*on the left*) was rebuilt in the 1930's but retains its former protective wall. The present building of the Royal Exchange, in front of which is an equestrian statue of Wellington, was opened by Queen Victoria in 1844.

Many of the houses in LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS (10) are excellent examples of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century domestic architecture. Close to Temple Bar, the boundary of the City of London, two fine churches occupy island sites in the Strand (11). The nearer is ST. MARY LE STRAND, built in Baroque style by James Gibbs. The church in the background, ST. CLEMENT DANES, now the R.A.F. Church, was completed in the seventeenth century and its tower contains the bells of the nursery rhyme "Oranges and Lemons say the bells of St. Clement's".

8 10  
9 11







The HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT (12 and 13) were completed a century ago and incorporate a part of the medieval Palace of Westminster. The view from the river is particularly imposing. Flying from the Victoria Tower the Union Jack indicates that the "House" is sitting. The Clock Tower, which contains the hour-bell called "Big Ben", is known the world over. Through the 323-ft. high Victoria Tower the Sovereign passes on the occasion of a Royal Opening of Parliament. The House of Commons was destroyed in 1941 but has been rebuilt in a very similar style. Westminster Hall with its magnificent hammerbeam roof was the scene of some of the most notable trials in British history. Sir Thomas More, Guy Fawkes and Charles I were all condemned here. In more recent times it has been the scene of the lying in state of Edward VII, George V and George VI.

On the riverside promenade known as the EMBANKMENT (14) stands "Cleopatra's Needle", an ancient Egyptian obelisk erected here in 1878. It is 68 ft. high and weighs 180 tons. The two buildings facing the Embankment Gardens are Shell-Mex House, with the largest public clock in London, and the Savoy Hotel.

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The THAMES (15) brings to the capital both prosperity and beauty. The broad sweep of the river downstream, with the fine dome of St. Paul's towering majestically over the busy scene, makes an impressive picture. Of the numerous bridges which cross the Thames the rebuilt Waterloo Bridge (*in the foreground*) is one of the most graceful. Between Waterloo and Blackfriars Bridges moored ships serve as headquarters for volunteer naval organizations. Captain Scott's polar expedition ship *Discovery* is also berthed near by.

On the South Bank stands London's largest concert hall, the Royal Festival Hall, constructed in 1951 for the Festival of Britain. Its forecourt forms a riverside promenade, some 560 yards long, and from here there is a fine view of the river (16). Beyond Festival Pier is the graceful span of Waterloo Bridge which was rebuilt between 1937 and 1944.

The vista of the river in a westerly direction is even more impressive (17). Beyond the railway bridge are Westminster and Lambeth Bridges with the Houses of Parliament on the north and County Hall on the south banks. Adjoining the latter is the site for a National Theatre.

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overleaf  
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Sooner or later every visitor finds his way to TRAFALGAR SQUARE, a general view of which appears on the previous page. Surmounting the imposing column, a copy of one of the Corinthian columns in the Temple of Mars at Rome, is the 17-ft. statue of Lord Nelson. The total height of the monument is 184 ft. On the pedestal are bronze reliefs, cast from captured French cannon, representing Nelson's most famous victories. The bronze lions are the work of Landseer. On the north side of the square are the National Gallery and the National Portrait Gallery and in the north-east corner the well-known church of ST. MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS (19).

Of course, the real attraction of Trafalgar Square is the pigeons (20). Huge flocks of these birds, seemingly with insatiable appetites, people the square and are so very tame that they will readily alight on an outstretched arm or even on an unsuspecting head.

The broad highway of WHITEHALL (21), leading from Trafalgar Square to Westminster, is flanked by many large government buildings. In the centre of the roadway stands the Cenotaph, the memorial to the fallen of both world wars.

19 20  
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London is particularly rich in varied architectural styles, of which the four pictures on this page are an excellent illustration. COUNTY HALL (22), the headquarters of the London County Council, has an impressive riverside frontage. Completed in 1933, the building contains a large council chamber and an elliptical conference hall.

Adjoining the Admiralty, of which it forms a part, ADMIRALTY ARCH (23) was erected in 1910 at the Trafalgar Square end of the Mall as part of the national memorial to Queen Victoria. This memorial included the refronting of Buckingham Palace, the construction of the Mall and the erection of the statue outside the Palace.

The houses of many of London's squares no longer serve their original purpose as family residences, but some, such as this handsome terrace in fashionable BELGRAVE SQUARE (24), nevertheless have retained their original pleasing façades.

The most famous house in London is undoubtedly No. 10 DOWNING STREET (25), the official residence of the Prime Minister. The house, like its neighbour No. 11 where resides the Chancellor of the Exchequer, has a deceptively unpretentious exterior.



22 24  
23 25





The Royal Standard flying over BUCKINGHAM PALACE (26) is the sign that the Queen is in residence. This eighteenth-century house was purchased by George III in 1762, rebuilt later by Nash and since 1837 has been continuously used as the official London residence of the sovereign. Facing the Palace at the end of the broad Mall stands the statue of Queen Victoria.

The Brigade of Guards comprises the Household Cavalry and the five regiments of Foot-guards. There is no finer sight in London than a detachment of Life Guards or Royal Horse Guards (27), perfectly turned out on their magnificent horses, forming a personal escort to the Queen, to other members of the Royal Family and to distinguished visitors from abroad, on the occasion of a ceremonial procession. Few can fail to be thrilled by the stirring music of a Guards' band (28) marching out of the Palace gates.

The posting of a relief sentry (29) is a piece of traditional ceremonial which never fails to arouse the interest of the visitor, and whenever crowds gather at the Palace gates there one will find the mounted men of the Metropolitan Police (30), ever ready to exercise gentle but firm control.

26 28  
27 29 30







Between Whitehall and St. James's Park is HORSE GUARDS, once a guard-house for the royal palace of Whitehall which has now practically disappeared. A guard of the Household Cavalry is mounted here each morning (31). To the rear of the building a passage leads to the open space bordering the park and known as Horse Guards' Parade. Every year in June the ceremony of Trooping the Colour is carried out in celebration of the Queen's birthday and in the presence of Her Majesty. The military taking part are the Brigade of Guards, each regiment in turn having the honour of "trooping" its own colour which is carried by a second-lieutenant. After a combined march-past the Queen takes her place at the head of her Guards and leads them from the parade ground. In the view above (32) Her Majesty, preceded by her personal escort and followed by other members of the Royal Family is seen arriving for the ceremony. This event is perhaps the finest spectacle to be seen in London each year and attracts great numbers of spectators.





THE MALL (33), a broad tree-lined thoroughfare, leads from Trafalgar Square to Buckingham Palace, in front of which, surmounted by the winged figure of "Victory", stands the white marble memorial to Queen Victoria which was unveiled in 1911.

Coventry Street leads from Piccadilly to LEICESTER SQUARE (34) which was first laid out in the middle of the seventeenth century. This oasis in the midst of London's busy traffic is flanked by restaurants, cinemas and theatres. A copy of Shakespeare's statue in Westminster Abbey stands in the centre of the garden and at the four corners are busts of former residents of the square—Reynolds and Hogarth, the painters; Hunter, the surgeon; and Newton, the scientist.

PICCADILLY CIRCUS (35) has often been called the hub of the Commonwealth. This is London's theatreland and at night it is ablaze with electric signs of all kinds. Beneath the Circus lies one of the busiest stations of London's underground railway network. In the centre of the Circus stands the bronze statue of Eros, erected in 1893 in memory of the philanthropic Earl of Shaftesbury.

33 35  
34 36





On this page are depicted four of the many different characters who are to be found in London Town. The coster (37) with his barrow laden with fruit and vegetables is frequently to be heard crying his wares in the streets. Sometimes he is accused of causing obstruction, frequently he is moved on by a sympathetic but firm policeman, but rarely does he lose his habitual cheery demeanour.

The Chelsea Pensioners (38), as they are familiarly called, are old or invalid soldiers of the Royal Hospital. This institution was founded by Charles II and was designed by Sir Christopher Wren. Some say that Nell Gwynn was responsible for its foundation but there is little evidence to support this contention. The dress uniform of the pensioners is a distinctive bright scarlet frock-coat and they are often to be seen as guests at various military functions. On the anniversary of Charles II's entry into London in 1660 a ceremony takes place in the central courtyard where the King's statue stands. This statue by Grinling Gibbons depicts Charles in the uniform of a Roman general.

Pavement artists (39), working in crayon on the sidewalks, are still to be found in the streets of London. Their work is often of a high standard and passers-by express their appreciation of the artist's endeavours by throwing coins into his hat. The fourth picture (40) shows us two familiar figures of the Tower of London. The Yeoman Warder (on the left) is here photographed in company with a guards serjeant in his magnificent full-dress uniform.

There are many other characters who help to give London its unique personality. Some, like the shoe-black, once a familiar figure in the streets of the capital, have alas almost disappeared. Others, however, are still with us; the pearly "kings and queens" who still hold their festivals and incidentally do a great deal for deserving charities; the porters at Covent Garden, who can balance a surprising number of round baskets on their heads; the impassive commissionaires outside hotels, restaurants, cinemas and theatres; the top-hatted bank messengers hurrying busily through the City streets; the "wonderful" London policemen, the admiration of visitors from all over the world. All these and many more are the real Londoners, without whom the capital would lack its true character.

37 39  
38 40







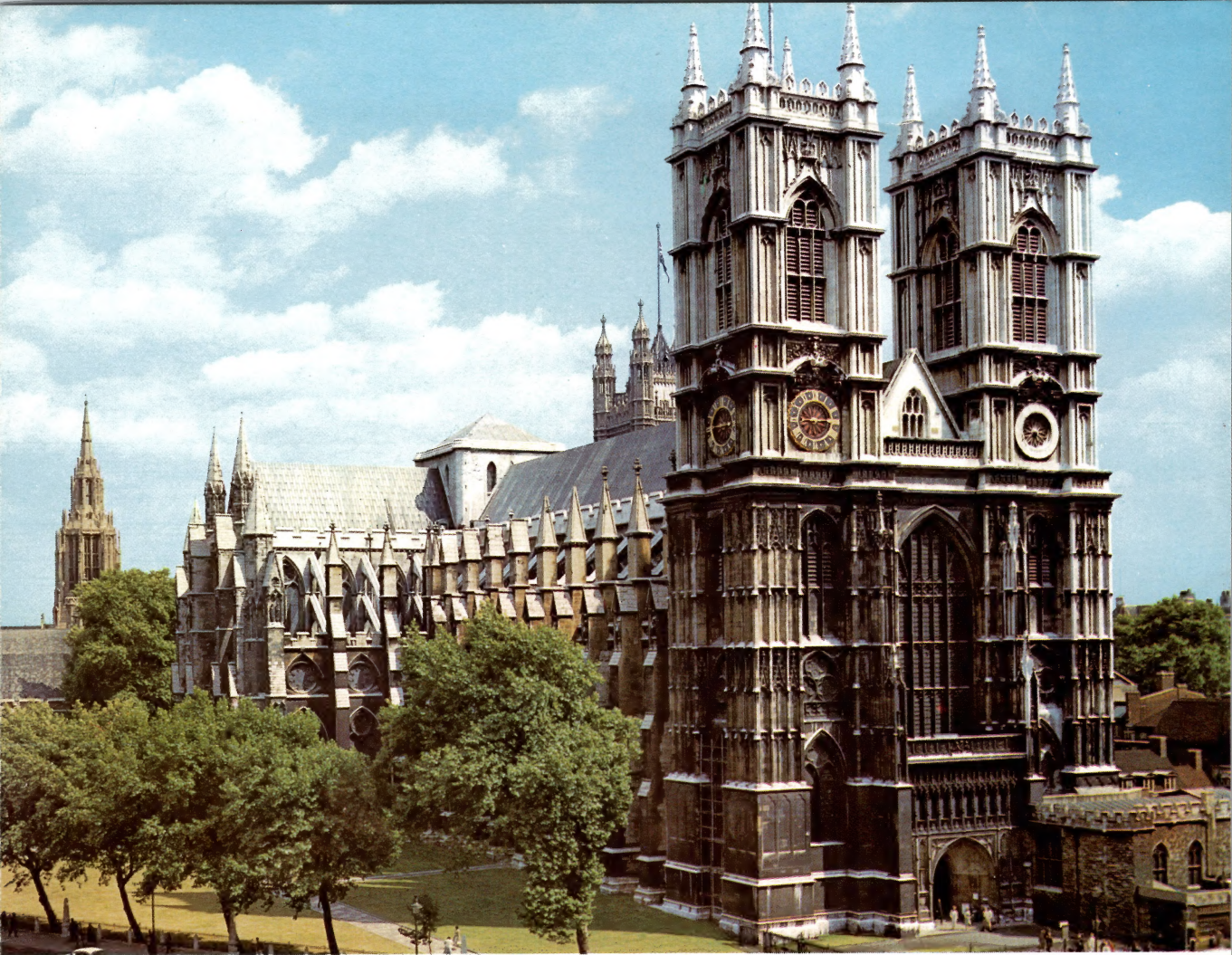
The open spaces of London provide a welcome contrast to the great built-up areas. One of the most delightful of London's "lungs" is ST. JAMES'S PARK (41) which extends from Buckingham Palace to Whitehall. Its principal feature is a small but attractive lake where all kinds of aquatic birds find a home.

REGENT'S PARK (42), like St. James's, was designed by the great architect Nash who was also responsible for many of the Classical terraces which border the park. In summer open-air performances of Shakespeare's plays are given in the natural amphitheatre. One section of the park forms the Zoological Gardens where a comprehensive collection from all parts of the world is displayed.

Hyde Park, the largest of London's public parks, and Kensington Gardens, formerly part of the Royal Palace of Kensington, are linked by the SERPENTINE (43) where boating and bathing may both be enjoyed. KEW GARDENS (44), 288 acres in extent, are devoted to the practical development of botany, horticulture and forestry. In Spring especially they are a delightful picture with thousands of daffodils, crocuses and bluebells.

41	43
42	44





The last picture is significantly of Westminster Abbey, the one historic building to which every visitor sooner or later is drawn. A few words about the Abbey would perhaps not be out of place here. Founded by Edward the Confessor in 1050, the Abbey was a Benedictine monastery until the Dissolution. The present building dates largely from the time of Henry III who began to rebuild the church, a task which lasted nearly 300 years. The West Towers were added in the eighteenth century. Since William I almost every English monarch has been crowned in this great church, which contains the tombs and memorials of many of Britain's most eminent citizens. One of the greatest treasures of the Abbey is the oaken Coronation Chair made for Edward I in 1300. Underneath it rests the Stone of Scone on which kings of Scotland were once crowned. Near the West Door of the Abbey the Unknown Warrior lies in a simple grave. His tomb symbolizes the alliance of the three great allies of World War I; the coffin was made of English oak, buried in French soil and covered with Belgian marble. On a column near by hangs the American Congressional Medal which was laid on the tomb in 1921 by General Pershing.

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#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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